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County to Construct North Branch Court in Round Lake Beach

ROUND LAKE BEACH, IL – Based on a comprehensive study to determine the ideal location for two new branch court facilities, the Lake County Board approved an agreement at its meeting today, Tuesday, April 8th, to purchase 4.5 acres of property on Nicole Lane, just north of Rollins Road, in Round Lake Beach. This location will serve as a northern branch court. A new southern branch court will open later this summer.

The county reached an agreement to purchase the property for \$589,000. This new North Branch Court will replace property the county currently leases in Grayslake for court operations.

The North Branch Court will be similar in design and appearance to the \$1.6 million South Branch Court currently being constructed at Route 60/83 and Diamond Lake Road in Mundelein. Court officials expect the South Branch Court to be operable in August.

The North Branch Court will hear traffic, ordinance, conservation violation cases and possibly local housing matters. These types of cases will not bring dangerous criminal offenders into the Round Lake Beach area.

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According to county board member Audrey Nixon, who chairs the law and judicial committee, “The North Branch Court is an important addition to the court system because it eases caseloads and brings the justice system closer to residents in the northern and central region of Lake County.”

County officials reviewed several sites for possible locations of the North Branch Court in and around the Round Lake Beach area before reaching an agreement on the Nicole Lane property. Potential properties were evaluated on the cost to purchase the site, cost to prepare the site for development, the availability of parking, access to highways and access to public transportation.

The Lake County Board’s Law and Judicial Committee reviewed a study completed in 2000 that identified the Mundelein and Round Lake Beach areas as the ideal locations for the branch courts in order to provide easy access to court services for all county residents. The Lake County Administrator’s Office, 19th Judicial Circuit Court, Circuit Court Clerk, Department of Planning, Building and Development and Division of Transportation worked together to provide the law and judicial committee with the site location study.

County officials hope the new North Branch Court will be operable in the latter half of 2004, when the county’s lease expires in Grayslake.